

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

August 16, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Chu, Administrator Jackson, and Chairman Wellinghoff:

I am writing regarding the findings of a report that I requested from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). The report, being issued today, is entitled "EPA Regulations and Electricity: Better Monitoring by Agencies Could Strengthen Efforts to Address Potential Challenges."

This report confirms several important points regarding EPA's standards. First, the report confirms that EPA's standards can be implemented while maintaining overall grid reliability. Second, the report confirms that the vast majority of power plants will install pollution control equipment to meet the standards, and will continue to operate for many years. Finally, the report underscores that the health benefits of these standards, such as reduced hospital visits, fewer premature deaths, and greater work productivity, far outweigh the potential costs.

The GAO also makes a number of recommendations regarding the implementation of the standards in the coming years. You or your deputies have all had an opportunity to review and comment on GAO's findings and recommendations. While your initial reactions are included in the GAO report (Appendix V), I would like to hear directly from you about your plans regarding this complex topic. I would also like to know the extent to which you are coordinating with each other. Finally, I want to know how you will be implementing GAO's recommendations.

In my view, it is incumbent on all stakeholders—from electric utilities to their regulators—to implement environmental standards as smoothly as possible to minimize rate impacts for consumers and optimize the very real public health benefits. This GAO report is intended to help outline these challenges in a constructive way.

*The Honorable Secretary Chu, Administrator Jackson and Chairman Wellinghoff*

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John D. Rockefeller IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John D. Rockefeller IV

Cc: Hon. Patricia Hoffman (DOE)  
Hon. Bob Perciasepe (EPA)  
Mr. Frank Rusco (GAO)